

Wednesday 7 June 2006

Korea to learn from Kooragang Wetlands

An important delegation from the South Korean Ministry of Environment will be visiting Kooragang Wetlands tomorrow (Thursday 8th June), to learn about the important wetland conservation work taking place at the Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project (KWRP).

KWRP Manager, Ms Peggy Svoboda explained that the group of twenty delegates, which includes managers, research and local environment protection staff will be seeking to learn from the Hunter-Central Rivers CMA and Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project experiences of working with wetlands over the last twelve years.

‘Kooragang regularly has visitors from overseas, particularly from Asia,’ Ms Svoboda said. ‘They are always amazed at the high level of community involvement that our project attracts and the enormity of the conservation works carried out at the wetlands.’

‘Close to 100 volunteers regularly get involved in a range of projects from monitoring plants and animals on the site, to university students studying various aspects of wetland ecology, to site maintenance and gardening at Kooragang City Farm. The project also attracts visits by school and other groups who can enjoy the boardwalks and other facilities whilst learning about wetland conservation.’

Tour coordinator Mr Tony Lee said he chose Kooragang Wetlands, due to the diversity of issues and experiences available at the site

‘We want to learn all about wetlands in NSW, how they are preserved and managed,’ explained Mr Lee. ‘We are particularly interested in seeing how wetlands are managed in industrial areas and learning how to achieve a balance between industry and the environment.’

‘We have heard good things about what has been happening in the Hunter River estuary at Kooragang and we are keen to learn from this Newcastle experience.’

The Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project is rehabilitating fisheries and other wildlife habitat in suitable areas of the Hunter River estuary, while at the same time creating educational, research and recreational opportunities for people. KWRP is a collaborative project of the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority.

ENDS

For more information contact KWRP Project Manager, Peggy Svoboda phone (02) 4964 9308, mobile 0418 649 308, KWRP Communications Officer Sue Rostas phone (02) 4964 9308, mobile 0419 019 662.

Photo opportunity:

The South Korean delegation will be available for photographs during the initial half hour of their visit which is due to start at 11am at Kooragang Wetlands Information Centre. Following that they will be touring the Ash Island site of Kooragang Wetlands.

Major contributors to the Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project currently are:

Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority
NSW Department Natural Resources
Newcastle City Council
Port Stephens Council
NSW Department Primary Industries
NSW Department Environment Conservation
Port Waratah Coal Services
Energy Australia
Newcastle Port Corporation
Waterways Authority of NSW
Banrock Station
GHD Pty Ltd

